

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

EXTENSION SERVICE

T. O. WALTON, Director

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME
ECONOMICS

(The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating).

Distributed in furtherance of the Act of Congress of May 8th and June 30th, 1914

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ANCIENT AND MODERN AGRICULTURE

BY

A. K. SHORT

Agronomist



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas

THE SOURCE OF PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

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Address:

T. O. WALTON, Director

Extension Service, A. and M. College of Texas,
College Station, Texas.

Agriculture is the basis of wealth in this state. The soil must furnish all the necessities and comforts of life. Farming is the only occupation of man that was started by the Creator. In the beginning, the laws of nature were put in force and these laws have never been, nor will they ever be, changed. The laws of nature, in regard to farming, are interpreted in the Bible in the form of direct commands and examples. The only type of farming that has ever succeeded has been that which has followed these divine laws and teachings. No other type will ever prove successful. The only community organizations that have ever succeeded have been those based upon the identical plan that Moses had.

Before the farmers succeed, they must follow "Book-Farming," and get their commands and examples from the oldest record of man,—the BIBLE—then look to their Agricultural College, through the county agents, for the practical applications of these laws and examples.

The degree of civilization attained in any nation has been in direct relationship to the progress in agriculture. In any nation where agriculture has declined their government has failed.

—THE AUTHOR.

FOREWORD.

The leaders in the rural field have realized that rural progress is being retarded by economic condition, and that spiritual development is at least in a measure controlled by the material condition of the people. We know that the Christ ministered to the physical needs; first, in order that His hearers might more fully appreciate and more readily accept His ministrations to the spiritual welfare.

Realizing the need for a Biblical background for rural workers' messages, this bulletin has been prepared after consultation with some of the leading ministers of the various denominations. It is a compilation of some of the agricultural texts that are to be found in both the Old and New Testaments for the use of rural agricultural leaders who may desire to give more definite spiritual context to their messages upon agricultural and related topics.

It is not intended that these references shall be regarded as an exhaustion of Bible references upon these topics. The Bible is rich in texts that might properly be used as a background for rural messages, and our hope is that those in whose hands this publication may fall, will be encouraged to search more diligently for the truths contained in the Word that may be used to reinforce appeals for the improvement of rural conditions.

Many of us who have had opportunity to establish broad contacts with rural people who have much experience in rural development work, confidently believe that the church is suffering as much from the distressing economic conditions that prevail, as from any one cause. We are convinced that the church, the school, and the community will make very much greater strides of progress, if a larger measure of economic independence can be assured rural people, and it is with the fervent hope that this outline will be of assistance to those who are working to bring about improvement in the material as well as the spiritual welfare of our people, that this bulletin has been published.

—T. O. WALTON, Director.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is pointed out that the study of history is not only a means of understanding the past, but also a means of understanding the present and the future. The author argues that the study of history is essential for the development of a nation and for the well-being of its people. He states that the study of history is a means of understanding the human condition and of finding solutions to the problems of the world. The author also discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States in the context of the world. He argues that the study of the history of the United States is essential for understanding the role of the United States in the world and for finding solutions to the problems of the world. The author concludes that the study of history is a means of understanding the human condition and of finding solutions to the problems of the world.

INTRODUCTION.

The object of this booklet is to be, in a measure, an assistance to rural readers in preparing the soil so that his words will fall on good ground and produce an hundred fold.

Christ was the greatest student of human nature that the world has ever known and one of His greatest parables is recorded in Matthew (13): "Behold a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up; some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns: and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: but others fell into good ground, and brough forth fruit, and some an hundred-fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold."

This parable probably has reference to preparing your hearers, or gaining the confidence of the people so that they will believe your message. Christ gained this confidence through administering to the physical needs of man and by talking in language easily understood by the people.

Many of the references made in the Bible in regard to agriculture were used in comparison to the spiritual life, but these comparisons would not have been made except that they were based upon a fundamental truth.

The A. and M. College through its Extension Service with its numerous Farm and Home Demonstration Agents, specialists and with an abundance of literature is ready and anxious to assist the rural pastor to promote a better system of agriculture and a better religious spirit in his community. We do not claim, or believe, that the plan of salvation is through a permanent system of agriculture, but we do know that the home and community life of an individual has more to do with his religious trend than any other one thing. We want to help this home and community life, and our services are available to the rural pastor, and may be used by him in building a greater church.

AGRICULTURE AND THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

From the very beginning when Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden, on down through time, the general religious tendencies of the rural people have been greater than that of the people in the cities. Neither the extreme wealth nor the extreme poverty that is found in the city is conducive to the development of the highest type of Christian religion. Extreme poverty often develops in man the instinct of self preservation, while extreme wealth frequently develops a type of selfishness that conflicts with the highest state of spiritual development.

The development of community spirit, the educational and religious life of the rural districts is almost in direct relation to their labor income.

The labor income, is, in a measure, controlled by the fertility of the land, and the fertility of the land can only be maintained or increased by the proper type of farming.

The necessities of life are only obtained from the products of the soil. The Christian religion has always had, and will always have, the strongest advocates among people who are able to feed and clothe themselves. This is true whether applied to a nation, a state, a community, or to an individual. The heathen nations (or people) are those who do not have the necessities nor the comforts of life. We boast of having the greatest Christian nation on the globe. . . . this is true, because we are a nation that has always been able to supply the necessities of life to our people.

SPIRITUAL LIFE AS RELATED TO PHYSICAL WELFARE.

The ancient prophets knew full well the effect that physical man had on his spiritual welfare, and at all times worked to satisfy the physical needs of their people so that they would accept the spiritual teachings.

In Exodus (Chap 15 and 17) instances were cited where the Children of Israel were on the point of rebellion because of their thirst. Again, in Exodus (11 and 16) we find them complaining from hunger. In every instance, where the necessities of life were lacking or, where the physical man was in want, there was a rebellion against their spiritual leader.

Christ established himself with the people by ministering to their physical needs. He healed the sick, made the blind see, and the lame to walk; He relieved suffering humanity. He carried out His work in the cities and rural communities until He was well established in the minds of the people. We have two records of Christ performing miracles by feeding the multitudes. These two instances prove, only more fully, His wonderful insight into human nature. He knew that the people were hungry and to establish himself more firmly in their confidence, He ministered to their physical needs. Christ did not perform miracles for pleasure, but did so, realizing that His doctrine would fall on more willing ears if the physical man was satisfied. Christ made reference to this truth in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13). He fasted forty days in the mountain, that He might more fully understand the spiritual weakness of a physically suffering man.

DIVINE SANCTION.

We have every evidence to prove that agriculture is the one occupation of man that found favor in the eyes of the Lord. After the creation of the earth we find these words in

Genesis 2:5. . . . "and there was not a man to till the ground" and in Genesis 2:8 we have record of the Garden of Eden and of the Lord's placing Adam in this garden. The Lord's chosen people, the Israelites, were strictly an agricultural people. Christ worked in the rural districts and with the rural people until He established himself firmly. Throughout the

entire Bible we have a complete history of the agricultural activities of the people. We have more references made to, more laws governing, and more advice given concerning agriculture than on any other occupation of man. Practically all the parables that Christ gave, were based upon agricultural truths. Many of the comparisons made in the Bible illustrating the spiritual life of the people, were in terms of comparison to some phase of agriculture. It is the inherent and divine instinct of every normal man to own land. All this being true, it is evident that farming is one of the greatest callings of man, and the rural preacher who enters into the life of the community, who helps to build up the agriculture of that community, will surely build a foundation upon a rock.

LIVESTOCK FARMING.

A permanent system of agriculture and livestock farming are inseparable.

Genesis 4:2:....."and Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground."

Isiah 7:21:....."And it shall come to pass in that day that a man shall nourish a young cow and two sheep." No country, community, nor individual has ever made a success of farming without the aid of livestock. Crop farming, where the products are sold from the farm in their original state, decreases the fertility of the land until it eventually becomes depleted. The most wealthy people, and the most prosperous individual farmers, are those who derive the greatest part of their revenue from livestock and livestock products. One of the outstanding examples of a one-crop system of farming, is the rapid depletion of soil fertility, and with it, the decreasing labor income of the farmers in the cotton belt of our state. The great dairy section of Wisconsin was, at one time, a wheat producing country. The time came when this entire section would produce but little more than the seed. The farmers turned to livestock farming, and today after thirty years, they are probably the most prosperous farmers in the United States. They have built great rural schools, churches, and communities. The individual farmer, in any community who has his poultry, milk cows and hogs, is the most prosperous and broad minded man in that community.

The advantages of livestock farming are:

(a) It furnishes a source of revenue every month in the year, so that the farmer is not dependent upon a field crop for his only source of income.

(b) It furnishes a table supply of the most wholesome food throughout the entire year. Children cannot be properly nourished without an abundance of milk, butter and eggs.

(c) Feeding livestock and returning the manure to the fields will increase the fertility of the soil.

(d) The maintaining of livestock on the farm where the products are

used as food and some surplus sold, insures a clear profit on the field crop that is grown as the money crop.

(e) Livestock farming gives steady employment for the household the entire year, thus eliminating the temptations that are brought about by idleness.

(f) The very nature of livestock farming is conducive to a higher degree of citizenship and religious tendencies than the one-crop system.

(g) A man with one good milk cow to furnish sufficient milk and butter for the family, one good brood sow to furnish meat, one hundred good hens, sufficient crops to feed this livestock and money to produce sufficient revenue to clothe the family, will never be in want.

While the most profitable type of farming is livestock combined with field crops, yet the profit derived from this system is in direct relation to the type of livestock produced and the type of field crops grown.

Lev. 19:19:....."thou shalt not let thy cattle gender (breed) with a diverse kind: thou shalt not plant thy fields with mingled (mixed) seed." Also Deut. 22:9.

The chief advantages of pure bred over grade or scrub livestock, are:

(a) Purebreds have been developed for high production in one special line. This may be for beef or for dairy purposes in cattle, for wool or mutton in sheep, for eggs or for meat in poultry, or for meat in hogs.

(b) Breeding pure type livestock creates a pride and an interest in the individual farmer that tends to make him a better citizen.

(c) Pure bred livestock costs no more to produce and to maintain than do scrubs or grades, and they bring a better price when offered for sale.

(d) The reputation gained by producing a high type of pure bred livestock, insures a ready market for all animals offered for sale.

The chief advantages to be derived from planting pure field seed are:

(a) Pure types, of adapted varieties, produce the highest acre yield.

(b) Pure types produce a product uniform in quality which commands the highest market price on the open market.

(c) Pure types are always in demand for seed, thus commanding a higher price than those offered on the open market.

(d) The pride taken in producing a high quality product makes better men.

SELECTING AND JUDGING.

In all nature the law of variation is constantly at work. Thus we have, even in our pure types, some individuals better and some poorer than the average of the breed or variety. This makes it absolutely necessary that the farmer become versed in judging the most desirable types and selecting these from his general herd or field.

Ezekiel 34:20:....."Therefore thus saith the Lord God unto them:

Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle." Another quotation that may be used in this connection is in,

Gen. 41....."And the lean and unfavored kine did eat up the first seven fat kine"....."and behold, seven ears came up on one stalk, full and good and behold seven ears withered, thin and blasted.....sprang up after them; and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears"..... We are all familiar with the story of Jacob's cattle selection as recorded in Gen. 30.

The chief advantages that may be derived from selecting livestock and farm crops are:

(a) Develops a more uniform type. A uniform quality product commands the highest market price.

(c) Develops higher yielding strains, thus increasing net profit.

(d) Eliminates the seven lean (in production) ears that eat up the profits from the seven fat ones.

The non-profitable livestock may be eliminated by:

(a) Testing the dairy herd and retaining only those that are producing a large amount of milk of high butterfat test.

(b) Culling out all beef animals weak in constitution (as shown by lack of flesh as compared to others) and those that do not show good development in the high priced cuts of meat.

(c) Selecting only ewes large in size and high producers of wool, in the case of wool breeds; or high producers of mutton in the mutton breeds. Select ewes which are regular breeders.

(d) Select sows that are regular breeders, producing large litters that develop into good meat producing hogs.

(e) Cull out all hens that are poor layers.

(f) Use only sires of recognized high class blood lines that are themselves good individuals.

The non-profitable types of farm crops may be eliminated by:

(a) Planting pure type seed that have been developed by a seed breeder.

(b) Field selections of the most desirable high yielding plants to be found in the field.

Field selections are made by three methods:

(a) Mass selection; where the farmer selects many plants of the same type from the field and these are planted in a seed plat.

(b) Individual plant selection: where one plant of desirable characteristics is selected and this individual plant is planted in an isolated plat and its progeny increased.

(c) By roguing fields; that is, pulling out the seven lean stalks (barren or low production) that take the plant food and moisture from the seven fat ones.

PREPARATION OF SOIL.

One of the corner stones in better agricultural methods is soil preparation. No matter how rich a soil may be, it will not produce to the limit of its capacity unless it receives proper preparation. We are all familiar with the parable of the sower as recorded in Matthew 13, 5:8.

Jeremiah 4:3: "For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem break up your fallow ground and sow not among thorns (weeds)."

The chief advantages to be derived by plowing the land before planting are:

(a) It gives a loose seed bed so that the feeder roots may penetrate it easily and enlarge their feeding area.

(b) It allows the air to penetrate, thus warming the soil which hastens plant growth.

(c) A loose soil will absorb and retain more moisture than a packed soil.

(d) The liberation of plant food depends upon the action of the atmosphere. This action is greatest in loose soil.

(e) A well prepared seed bed can be cultivated with less labor outlay. Land should be clean of vegetation when crops are planted because:

(a) On weedy ground, there is a competition for moisture and plant food between the crop planted and the weeds, with the odds in favor of the vegetation that is already growing.

(b) The enormous outlay of labor involved in cleaning a crop when the weeds are larger than the crop planted.

(c) It is cheaper to destroy the weeds before than after planting.

INTENSIVE CULTIVATION.

In terms of permanent agriculture, intensive cultivation means getting the highest returns from the land and at the same time maintaining or increasing the fertility of the soil. This is accomplished by:

(a) Proper preparation of the land, fertilization by crop rotation, barn yard manure and commercial fertilizer.

(b) Proper tillage methods.

Proverbs 28:19....."He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread."

Luke 13:....."A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came seeking fruit thereon and found none. And he said unto the vine dresser, behold these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none; cut it down. Why doth it also cumber the ground? And He answering saith unto him....Lord let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it and dung it; and if it bear fruit thenceforth, well; but if not, thou shalt cut it down."

One of the greatest curses of our southern farming system today is the extensive system of soil robbing that is practiced. Very little of our farm land is producing fifty per cent of its total possibilities. Broad acreages per farmer and lack of intensive methods is rapidly depleting our soil fertility.

Intensive cultivation is desirable because:

- (a) It stabilizes farm operations and insures a revenue every year.
- (b) It brings the greatest revenue on the amount of labor expended.
- (c) It increases soil fertility, thus increasing the labor income from year to year.
- (d) It produces a better quality product which in turn commands a higher market price.

TERRACING.

It is impossible to maintain or increase soil fertility on any field which washes or from which water flows rapidly.

The prophet, Jeremiah (12:11-12) says:.....“They have made it (the land) desolate and being desolate it mourneth unto me. The whole land is made desolate because no man layeth it to heart. The spoilers have come upon all high places through the wilderness.”

The advantages that may be derived from terracing are:

- (a) It prevents the erosion, or washing away of the top or most productive soil.
- (b) It prevents the leaching out of plant food by the rapid flow of water over the soil.
- (c) It allows the water to pass off the land slowly, thus allowing more water to be absorbed by the land to be used later by the growing crop.
- (d) The slow movement of water on terraces prevents any vegetation from being washed from the surface.

CROP ROTATION.

Some system of crop rotation is absolutely essential to permanent agriculture. This rotation may be based upon a succession of different crops grown; or allowing fields to lie idle and grow up in weeds and grass, or the necessary plant food elements may be returned to the soil in the form of barnyard manure. Many references are made throughout the Bible in regard to allowing the land to rest. One of the direct commands is found in

Leviticus 25:.....“Six years thou shalt sow thy field and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard and gather in the fruit thereof; but in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land. And for thy cattle and for the beasts that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat wherefore ye shall do my statutes and keep my judgments and do them, and you shall dwell in the land of safety. And the land shall yield her fruit and ye shall eat your fill and dwell therein in safety.”

This system of allowing one seventh of the land to be grazed by livestock each year, was the principal system of rotation practiced at that time. We must recognize that some variety of legume should be grown in rotation with other crops. The ancients used a variety of vetch. This is recorded in several places.

Isaiah 28:25: "When he hath made plain (smooth) the face (of the ground) thereof doth he not cast abroad the fitches (vetch).....and cast in the principal wheat?"

The main advantages to be derived from crop rotation are:

(a) It enters into livestock farming by supplying feed in addition to the money crop.

(b) It allows a more even distribution of labor throughout the year.

(c) It tends to eliminate weeds, insect pests and plant diseases peculiar to one certain crop.

(d) Where legumes are grown in rotation and they are turned into the soil or fed to livestock and the manure distributed on the fields, the fertility of the land is increased.

(e) The greater variety of crops grown, the more sources of revenue a farmer has; hence his chance for failure is lessened.

(f) Rotation of farm crops, combined with livestock farming, enables the farmer to return a greater amount of humus to the soil. Humus is the foundation of soil fertility.

(g) Different crops use plant food elements in different proportions. In crop rotation, the plant food in the soil is kept more nearly balanced.

(h) The acre yields are always greater and the quality of produce better under a system of rotation than where rotation is not practiced.

MARKETING AND WAREHOUSES.

A uniform quality product has a greater influence on the market value than any other one factor. The livestock commission men recognize this fact and assort each shipment of livestock consigned to them, into uniform size, age and color. The California Citrus Fruit Growers' Association recognized this fact, took advantage of it, and now influence the citrus fruit market of the world. The same may be said of the raisin growers of California. The cotton growers in the vicinity of Corpus Christi have made millions of dollars premium on cotton by producing a uniform, desirable quality of staple. The same may be said of any of the pure types and breeds of livestock.

Attractive containers and an honest pack add much to the present and future demand for a product. The ancients recognized this fact and sold fruit in baskets and graded it according to quality.

Jeremiah 24:2....."One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe and the other basket had very naughty figs which could not be eaten, they were so bad."

We recognize that orderly marketing (that is disposing of a product as the market consumes it) is the most profitable. We have an abundance of Biblical evidence that this was practiced in ancient times. Their surplus grapes were converted into raisins.

First Samuel 25:18; 30:12. Second Samuel 16:1. First Chronicles 12:40. We also know that these people in some manner preserved all kinds of food.

Leviticus 25:22. "And ye shall sow the eighth year and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year, until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store."

Where the immediate production of any commodity is greater than the immediate consumption, some form of warehouse facilities must be provided, if the market value of the product is realized. Canning and preserving the surplus perishable products on the farm and storage facilities with orderly marketing, will take care of the "lean years".

Genesis 41:48-49-56-57. "And he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt and laid up the food in the cities. The food of the fields which is round about every city laid up in the same way. And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much until he left numbering for it was without number. And the famine was all over the face of the earth and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold unto the Egyptians and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. And all the countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy corn."

One of the greatest evils of our marketing system of today is that the crop that has taken the major portion of the year to produce is marketed in a very short space of time, when prices are usually low. This is especially true of the two chief money crops, cotton and wheat. With proper warehouse facilities for cotton and elevators for wheat, and a sales organization, as is maintained by the fruit growers of California, the net profits from these two crops may be greatly increased.

These Biblical references, commands and parables are the same as are taught by the agricultural students of today. Permanent agriculture, a prosperous people, or a better citizenship in the rural communities cannot be developed nor maintained through any other channel.

Lev. 26:14-18-20-32-34. "But if ye will not harken unto me and will not do all these commandments, and if ye will not for all this harken unto me then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And your strength shall be spent in vain for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits, and I will bring the land into desolation and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astounded at it. Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbath as long as it lieth desolate."

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

Farm lands, buildings or industries do not make communities. A community is made up of people and they are classed as good or bad, rich or

poor, progressive or non-progressive, according to the average tendencies of the people who compose the community. An individual has but little influence on a community unless the community is organized and is depending upon this individual to lead and carry out a project that may be put into practice later for the benefit of all. A community is a group of people who are bound together in some common interest. This common interest may be a church, school, gin, or some other practical or social activity.

To be of greatest service to a community, a complete rural survey must be made to determine the needs of the community and a competent leader appointed for each project. Throughout the entire history of the Children of Israel, we find that Moses as the leader, had each tribe (community) appoint their leaders (wise men) to represent them in Council in all matters of interest to the entire group. For every project they had, there was some one man in charge. In building the temple as is recorded in Exodus, he called together all the wise men and they worked together under the leadership of Bezaleel who was an expert, and the project leader, in this line of work.

When the Children of Israel were sent to spy out (make a survey of) the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:1-20) each tribe was instructed to appoint a wise man as leader to represent them in making this survey.

Exodus 18:21: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness: and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

The greatest success attained by the people that Moses ruled, was due largely to community organization.

A community cannot be developed to a high plane unless the people take pride in their work. Community organization, where pure types of livestock and farm crops are produced, is conducive to the development of greater progress.

Deut. 22:10....."Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together." This command is based on both psychology and physiology and may also be applied to community development. A man, or men, who would have no more pride in their work than to use an ox and an ass as a team, would be a liability instead of an asset to any community. Neither could anyone develop a high type of intensive cultivation with such a team. Any farmer who has a well matched team, takes pride in all his work and usually in his community, and is generally a community builder.

Christ's religion was not for one man, but for all people.

John 1:29, 12:47, 3:17. His work with man was for the benefit of the masses as well as for the individual. Christ chose his leaders (disciples) and gave each a special work to perform.

THE RURAL PASTOR.

The very word "pastor" is of agricultural origin. Never was there a

truer word in its literal translation than the relationship between the rural pastor and his congregation. No man can exercise a greater influence over the spiritual and practical life of the people as can the rural preacher. No one has as great an opportunity to build communities, churches and schools. They are dealing with a rural minded people, who think, talk and act in terms of farming. They are a people who can be led into better agricultural methods when they learn that it has divine sanction.

The rural pastor with the cooperation of the county agent and the A. and M. College, can make a community survey, appoint the project leaders (wise men) like Moses did, in carrying out the divine instructions and thus help build a church and community citizenship which cannot be surpassed.

LAND OWNERSHIP.

We are not owners of the world, but are only trustees for the estate of the Lord.

Leviticus 25:23: "The land shall not be sold forever for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me."

The all-wise Creator intended that the fertility of the soil should feed this, and all generations that are to follow. If a man robs his neighbor today he may atone for it tomorrow, but the man who robs unborn generations of the elements that go to furnish the necessities of life, surely should be crowned "king of sinners!"

TO THE LAND.

From the depths of your bosom we get precious gems to crown our queens. We get precious metals that form the basis of national and individual wealth. We get iron, zinc, copper, and other ores that form the basis of our manufacturing enterprises. We get oil, gas and coal for fuel and to help carry on the commerce of the world. From your subteranean streams we get drink that sustains life. From your rock beds, and glorious trees that are grown from your storehouse of food, we build monuments to you, of justice, education, worship, business and pleasure. The wonders of reproduction of life that take place on your surface have always been the greatest miracle of all time. From the embryo plant that nestles on your surface is grown food and raiment for man and feed that nourishes the birds and beasts of the field. The streams that flow through the miniature clefts in your surface furnish us channels of commerce, recreation and food. The beauties of your mountains, streams and forests have never been reproduced by painter or sculptor nor have they been described by the poet.

We will strive to maintain you in the original beauty and the virgin fertility that you were when God delivered you to us.

You are the gift of God to man.
Of you, God made man.
God gave man dominion over you,
From you, man receives life.
In death, to you man returns.